

sasha waltz & guests



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SYM-PHONIE MMXX
für Tanz, Licht und Orchester
Choreography by Sasha Waltz
Music by Georg Friedrich Haas (commissioned work)

World Premiere
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Staatsoper Unter den Linden
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Choreography by Sasha Waltz

Music by Georg Friedrich Haas (commissioned work)

Choreography, Concept and Direction

Sasha Waltz

Set Design

Pia Maier Schriever

Costume Design

Bernd Skodzig

Lighting Design

David Finn

Dance

Sasha Waltz & Guests

A Coproduction between Sasha Waltz & Guests and Staatsballett Berlin.
Sasha Waltz & Guests is funded by the Senate Department for Culture and Europe.



SYM-PHONIE MMXX

für Tanz, Licht und Orchester

Choreography by Sasha Waltz

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Sasha Waltz' latest work for dance, light and orchestra »SYM-PHONIE MMXX« is a commissioned work by the renowned composer Georg Friedrich Haas and is his first official stage work for dance after numerous operas.

Composed for the large symphonic ensemble of the Staatskapelle Berlin, the music gives room to a symphony of dance and music, which creates a close connection between the musical language and the dancers' body language.

The production's concept, in the best tradition of dance history, is based on the inspiring encounter of the arts and has been declared the artistic guideline: music, dance and visual arts are transformed by Sasha Waltz and her artistic team into a full-length work which at the same time reflects the contrasts and contradictions of our current life reality like a seismograph. Thus creating a piece of clamorous silence and eruptive energy.

»In SYM-PHONIE MMXX I want to shape the extreme experience of our reality and create a contemporary genre painting.«

Sasha Waltz

Georg Friedrich Haas is one of the most successful composers of contemporary music. His success is due in part to having dedicated himself to the utopian idea – »unattainable in hundred percent perfection« – of creating a new music that is both expressive and soothing – not despite of its newness, but precisely because it is new.

»SYM-PHONIE MMXX« was created in co-production with the Staatsballett Berlin and received its world premiere on March 13th 2022 at the Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin.

Biographies

Sasha Waltz & Guests

The company Sasha Waltz & Guests was founded by Sasha Waltz and Jochen Sandig in Berlin in 1993. To date, more than 300 artists and ensembles from the fields of architecture, visual arts, choreography, film, design, literature, fashion and music from 30 countries have collaborated as »Guests« on over 80 productions, »Dialoge« projects and films. Sasha Waltz & Guests works in an international and national constantly evolving network of production and guest performance partners, showing its current repertoire of 12 active pieces in about 70 performances each year. In Berlin, the company cooperates with a wide range of municipal theatres, opera houses and museums and has contributed to the establishing of new cultural institutions such as Sophiensaele (1996), St. Elisabeth Kirche (2004) and Radialsystem (2006).

2013, the company has been named »European Cultural Ambassador« by the European Union. In 2014, Sasha Waltz & Guests was awarded the »George Tabori Ehrenpreis« by the Fonds Darstellende Künste.

Apart from Berlin stagings, national and international guest performances and the continual work on the repertoire, Sasha Waltz & Guests has been increasingly committed to educational and social projects. In 2007, the Children's Dance Company (»Kindertanzcompany«) was founded and since 2016 the interdisciplinary and open exchange platform »ZUHÖREN« serves as a »third space for art and politics«. Alongside these initiatives, the company continues to propose diverse offers in the field of knowledge transfer.

Sasha Waltz & Guests is funded by the Senate Department for Culture and Europe.

Sasha Waltz (Choreography, Concept and Direction)

Sasha Waltz is a choreographer, dancer and director. After her first studies at the School of New Dance Development in Amsterdam she joined the postmodern oriented New York City dance scene that worked in interdisciplinary exchange with the other arts. In 1986 and 1987 she danced in the New York based companies of Pooh Kaye, Yoshiko Chumo & School of Hard Knocks and Lisa Kraus & Dancers. Following her return to Europe in 1988 she began an intensive phase of collaborations with choreographers, artists and musicians. In 1992 she came to Berlin with a grant by the Künstlerhaus Bethanien, where she developed the improvisational format »Dialoge« driven by the spirit of her interdisciplinary and international work. She chose the young German capital as the center of her activities where she practiced new choreographic approaches in self-developed infrastructures. Together with Jochen Sandig she founded the dance company Sasha Waltz & Guests in 1993 and in 1996 the Sophiensaele as a venue for dance and more, nowadays a center of the independent dance and theatre scene not only in Germany. From 2000-2004 she was one of the directors of the Schaubühne at Lehniner Platz. In the season 2019/20 Sasha Waltz was director of the Berlin State Ballet together with Johannes Ohman.

During her first decade in Berlin she created internationally renowned and influential dance pieces such as the trilogies »Travelogue« and »Körper« as well as the immersive dance installation »insideout«. In the following years she applied the language and strategies of contemporary dance to vitalize and explore historical and new operas and ballets. With »Dido & Aeneas« (2005), »Medea« (2007) and »Matsukaze« (2011) she realized three pieces about women and at the same time established the genre of the choreographic opera. In 2007 she directed »Romeo et Juliette«, interpreting the dramatic symphony of Hector Berlioz, for the Opéra national de Paris. From this followed »Sacre« in 2013 set to the Music of Stravinsky commissioned by the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, and in 2014 »Tannhäuser« at the Staatsoper Berlin conducted by Daniel Barenboim. Simultaneously Sasha Waltz has been pursuing the sharing and teaching of dance knowledge and promoting dance as a medium of social and sociopolitical communication. As part of this endeavor, she founded the Berlin based »Kindertanzcompany« (Children's Dance Company) in 2007 and, following an invitation from the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, developed a choreography with over 100 pupils to dance Schtschedrin's Carmen-Suite. In 2016 she founded the event format »ZUHÖREN« with which she opened a »third space« for art and politics. She expanded the »Dialoge«-concept to incorporate danced responses to architecture wherein the

audience is invited to act as an equal part of the choreographic happening. Examples of this are »Dialogue 99/II« in the new construction of the Jewish Museum in Berlin by Daniel Libeskind, »Dialogue 09« performed in the still vacant interior of the Neues Museum in Berlin after the renovation by David Chipperfield (2009) and the choreographic installation »Figure humaine« for the inauguration of the Hamburg Elbphilharmonie (2017). In her present choreographic work, Waltz is focusing on the intensification of collaborative processes, such as the synchronic development of choreography and music. In collaboration with Soundwalk Collective and the costume designer Iris van Herpen (among others) she created the choreography »Kreatur« (2017) followed by the work »Exodos« (August 2018), both premiered at Radialsystem in Berlin. In early 2019 the project »rauschen« received its world premiere at the Volksbühne Berlin. On March 13th, 2022 »SYM-PHONIE MMXX«, a piece for dance, light and orchestra by Sasha Waltz and Georg Friedrich Haas, received its world premiere at Staatsoper Unter den Linden.

In 2020 Sasha Waltz reacted to the challenges of the Corona pandemic with different projects on- and offline. From March to June 2020 she published an online »dance diary«, developed the open air project »Dialogue 2020 – Relevante Systeme« in August premiering a choreography to Maurice Ravel's »Boléro« as well as solos to Georg Friedrich Haas' »I can't breathe« and in December streamed a series of improvisations with the title »Dialogue 2020 – Relevante Systeme II« live from the Radialsystem in Berlin. In 2021 Sasha Waltz' latest choreographic work »In C« to the composition by the same name of Terry Riley received its online premiere on a livestream from the Radialsystem Berlin before it was performed in front of an audience for the first time during the Ludwigsburger Schlossfestspiel. In June 2021 a choreography by Sasha Waltz to Beethoven's Symphony no. 7 received its world premiere in the frame of ARTE's Beethoven day, broadcast live from the ancient Apollo temple in Delphi together with musicAeterna under the baton of Teodor Currentzis.

For her special services in 2011 the choreographer was granted the German Federal Cross of Merit. Since 2013 she is a member of the Academy of Arts Berlin. In 2021 Sasha Waltz was awarded the French cultural order »Commandeur de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres«.

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